

TO RALPH FREEMAN, Esq;

S I R,

IT is, if I remember right, a Thought of honest *Neslor Iron-side*, That Weekly Essays are a kind of *Bows*, in which every Pretender to *Wit* may try his Skill at hitting a *Mark*. But, as there is an old Saying, that *Many talk of Robin Hood, who never shot in his Bow*; so it is certain that many Writings pique themselves on the Reputation of their Writings, though no body admires them but themselves, and those unhappy People who have the Rickets in their Understandings as well as themselves, and who are pleas'd with every pert Paper, the Malice of which flies the same way with their own. Twenty Years ago, and for twenty Years before that Time, we had excellent Papers on all Sorts of Subjects, especially on Topics Moral and Political. Within these Seven Years we have had more Papers than ever, especially Political, and I think I may say, never worse. Sure I am, that I do not speak this with any Degree of Rancor or Prejudice, especially with Regard to Papers at present publishing; none of which, in my poor Opinion, can excite *Envy* in any Man of *Common Sense*. It may be expected that I should give a Reason for so bold a Judgment; and, as I am always desirous that my Zeal should appear according to Knowledge, I shall not decline doing so reasonable a Thing.

My Opinion then turns upon this; that the Political Writers of former Times had all of them something to write about; which, admitting that the Political Writers of these Times had equal Abilities, must give the former great Advantage over them; because our Politicians of late have really none. In King *Charles the Second's* Time there were Wars, Plagues, and Plots, sufficient to exercise every Political or Poetical Genius in the Nation. In the Days of his Successor, the Popish Controversy exhausted the Skill of all the Polemical Writers in this Island. In King *William's* Time, a long War, the Partition Treaties, and the Disputes about Toleration, furnish'd every tolerable Head-piece with sufficient Opportunities of displaying its Contents. In the Days of her late Majesty Queen *Anne*, besides the Subjects before mention'd, there were the copious Topics of *Non-Resistance*, *Hereditary Right*, *Lawfulness of Persecution*, and many others; which, as abstruse as they might seem, nearly concerned the Good People of *England*, and therefore deserved particular Care from *Writers*, at the same time that they call'd for special Attention from *Readers*; But, God knows, Times are now altered; we have neither a Foreign War, nor a Prerogative Ministry! The Plague of Peace and Plenty is fallen upon us, and Dulness is come along with it. The *Craftsmen* indeed rack'd their Inventions for some time with tolerable Success; but, so it is, that either their Stock of Lies or Credit is now worn out; and their Successors, conscious of their having no Title to *Wit*, have been so modest as to lay claim to *Common Sense* only; though in that too they have failed, by telling Tales no Man of *Common Sense* can make either Head or Tail of. Thus, as far as my Abilities will go, I have traced the Theory and Practice of Political Writings within the Memory of Man, and have discovered the Causes of our Ancestors *Brightness*, and of that miserable *Darkness* in which our Cotemporaries feel and stumble about, as heretofore did *Pharaoh's* Wizards.

I have been led into these Reflections by reading the *Common Sense* of this Day, which is cer-

[Price Two-Pence.]

tainly the oddest Jumble of Greek and Latin, Sense and Nonsense, Lies to no Purpose, and Truths without Meaning, that ever employ'd the Press, or disturbed the Publick, from the Beginning of this Sort of Writing, unto this Day. To answer a Thing that has not either Matter or Method, is impossible; to remark on some of the Passages therein, is all that lies in my Power; this is what I shall take the Liberty of doing, for the sake of some charitable People, who are good-natur'd enough to believe there must be something in that Paper, though they have not Sense enough to find it out.

IN the first Place, I insist upon it, that the Author of this Paper ought to have given us the Passage from *Athenaus*, about which he talks so incomprehensibly; it is very true, he alludes to it as if infer'd in some former Paper; but, who does he think keeps Sets of these Papers? Or, what Critick of *Common Sense* pretended to reason about a Passage he did not cite? By his calling *Athenaus* a *Grave Historian*, I am led to conceive that either he or I know nothing of this *Athenaus*; There is indeed a Work extant under that Name, which Work is called, in plain English, *The Sophist's Feast*; or, to put it into plainer Language still, the *Table-Talk of Wits*. I might have given myself an Air, by putting in the Greek Title; but I think I have done better; I have put it into English; and I am ready to own that if the Author of this Work can be called a *grave Historian*, I do not understand either Greek or English. I know that there are a great many grave Historians quoted in his Work; and if this Gentleman will tell me that it is to be found in one of them, and where I may find it, I will tell him more of my Mind as to this Passage; at present I must tell him, that I am not at all astonished at his Learning.

Secondly, This learned Gentleman tells us, it has been advanced by several of his Predecessors in the Critical Way, that *Beelzebub* among the *Jews*, was no other than the *Venus* among the *Greeks*. I desire he will name one Critick that ever said this: I know very well that the *Baal* has been thought by many learned Men to be the same with *Priapus*; and I know too that if this Writer had ever read what those learned Men say on this Subject, he would have quoted it, as being more to his faithful Purpose than any thing which his Reading hath furnished him with. He had, it seems, a mind to puzzle his Unletter'd Readers with something in the Critical way: Let him support his Criticisms, if he can. Should he reply, All he intended was a Joke: Let me tell him, There is not a better Joke in the World, than to see a *Jester* play the Critick.

THERE is one Remark more due to this Paper, and I have done: He mentions the ingenious Author of the *Memoirs of Lord Buxlegh* in the *Gazetteer*, and does him an Honour he never deserved, of owning an Obligation to him. The Design of the learned Letter-Writer is to insinuate that his pretended Passage from a *Diary* ought to have just the same Weight as those quoted in the *Gazetteer*; that is, a Forgery supports Scandal with the same Propriety that a Manuscript does True History; a Point I shall never dispute with him. As tenderly as I have dealt with this Gentleman, I am terribly afraid he will be angry with me, and, if he does, he may chance to call me Names; after which, according to the Rules of Honour, I can never be upon Terms of Friendship with him. I will therefore anticipate what I should be forced to say on such an Occasion, and I will tell him plainly what I think of this Performance. Its Out side is really very indifferent, a patch'd up Piece of Business, which does little Honour to his Reading, and less to his Understanding.

James I. was once King of Great Britain, his present Majesty, and his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, are so immediately descended from him, that, as it betrays a Contempt of Monarchy, so it also manifests a great Disrespect of the present Royal Family, to drag that King's Name into a Dispute, merely to abuse his Memory. As to those offensive Expressions of King *Charles I.* *Rumping his Parliament*, and of his being deprived of Crown and Life by a *Rump'd Parliament*; they are surely very intolent Jokes, on a very melancholy Subject. The secret Intent of this Paper, its Author best knows; far be it from me to explain it; one thing I must put him in mind of, that he will always remember that he wrote this Paper, and not hereafter place it to the Account of some body else; for it is the Misfortune of these Sort of Writings, that on Reflection, those who have best Title to them, care least to own them. Sure I am, that no body will attempt to rob Mr. *Dalrymple* of the Honour of this Dissertation, or question his Title thereto, under Colour of a Mistake in writing of his own Name, which, whether it happened through the Ignorance of the Compositor, or from an Archness in the Author, I pretend not to determine: This I shall readily own, that the Publick will reap no great Advantage either from his Letter or mine.

I am,

S I R,

Yours, &c.

Sept. 17. 1737.

TIMOTHY TELL-TRUTH.

From my Own Chambers.

MY Correspondent is so modest as not to enter at all into the Intention of this Paper: I cannot think myself bound to act in this Manner: On the contrary, I think it idle to keep Terms with those who keep Terms with nobody; I will therefore do what I think is my Duty, that is, put the Publick in mind, that these Papers very little answer their Title, there being neither *Common Sense*, *Common Manners*, nor *Common Honesty*, in writing at this Rate. The Characters with which this Writer and his Associates make free with, stand in so high Rank, that it is no less injurious to *Defame*, than to *Detrone* them; and we may, without Breach of Charity, suspect that those who so readily do the one, want only Power to perpetrate the other; and therefore we are bound by all the Ties of Duty, to despise and abhor such Writings, as we are to oppose and punish disloyal Practices. I am the more surprized at these Authors going on at this rate; since it is notoriously known that the Chiefs of what is called the *Country Party*, have, in the most publick Manner, disclaim'd Labels of this Nature, and acknowledged that they deserve very severe Punishment. If the Lenity of the present Administration engages them to forbear meddling with these rash *Users of Pen and Ink*, it cannot be doubted that the People of Great Britain will have a proper Sense of their Conduct, and acknowledge Them to be true *Friends to Liberty*, who are content to spare *Licentiousness*, rather than be thought to wound *Truth*.

R. FREEMAN.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

THE Plenipotentiaries of the several Powers held their First Session at *Nimereux* on the 5th of August, O. S. when having repaired to their Tents with extraordinary Pomp, and from thence to the Room appointed for the Conferences

retires, and having there seated themselves in their Chairs of State, those of the Imperial Ministers being cover'd with Crimson Damask, and those of the Russians with Purple Velvet, both the one and the other being adorned with Lace and Fringe of Silver, while the Turks sat after the Oriental Manner, upon magnificent Squabs; the Count d'Ostien, the Emperor's First Plenipotentiary, read his Imperial Majesty's Proposals with a loud Voice, which being in Latin were translated by his Excellency's Interpreter. The Reis-Effendi made Answer in the Turkish Language, the Contents of which were explained to the Emperor's Ministers by the Interpreter of the Porte. Then M. de Schaffiroff, one of the Russian Plenipotentiaries, made a very fine Speech, wherein he gave an Account of the Motives of the present War; and shewed the Necessity of proceeding in earnest to the Conclusion of a Peace, in Order to save the Effusion of Human Blood: And thus ended the First Session.

At the Third Conference, the Imperial and Russian Ministers moderated their Pretensions considerably; and

At the Fourth, they made a Scruple to continue their Negotiations with the Porte, upon Advice that the Grand Vizier was deposed, and another put in his Place; and that thereupon the Plenipotentiaries of the Ottoman Porte made Answer, That they held their Commissions from the Grand Signior: That they would forthwith dispatch One of their Principal Officers to Constantinople, to inform his Highness of what had passed in the Four Conferences; and that as soon as they received an Answer, they would communicate it to the Plenipotentiaries of the Emperor and the Czarina.

At the Fifth Conference, it is said that the Plenipotentiaries of the Emperor and Russia declared, That their Instructions were to demand that the *Uti Possidetis* should be establish'd as the Basis of the Negotiations of Peace; the Ministers of the Porte loudly exclaimed against a Condition which appeared to them so hard, and disadvantageous to the Grand Signior; and the Reis Effendi said, It was better to break off the Conferences, than to treat upon such a Footing: Upon which Baron Dahlman took occasion to represent, that this Condition would not perhaps be rigorously insisted upon, and that he thought the Courts of Vienna and Petersburg might relinquish something in that Article, if the Porte on her Side would facilitate the Conclusion of the Preliminaries. Couriers have been dispatch'd again from Nimerow to Vienna and Petersburg, for fuller Instructions on that Head, as well as on the Suspension of Arms propos'd by the Turkish Plenipotentiaries.

There have been great Disputes among the Turkish Clergy, about granting the Permission desired by the Janisaries to drink Wine during the War with the Christians; and the same was at length decided in their Favour, and a License for that end delivered by the Mufti, importing, That the Grand Signior's Troops might, without derogating from the Law of Mahomet, be allowed to drink Wine during the War against the Unbelievers, provided they made a moderate Use of such License, and drank Wine only to enable them better to support the Fatigues of the Campaign.

They write from Caminick, that they have Advice there, that the Turkish Minister who was at Fraustad, to compliment the King of Poland on his Accession to the Throne, was strangled at his Return to Choczim; because, say they, he went upon that Embassy upon the bare Orders of the Grand Vizier, who is newly deposed, without any Authority for it from the Ottoman Porte.

Letters from Vienna say, Prince Charles of Lorain continues ill at Presbourg; that the Court had just received two Expresses from Hungary, the Advices whereof were not made public; but they say, the General Baron de Schmertau is dead of the Distemper of that Country; That the Turkish Garrison of Widdin has made a vigorous Salley upon the Troops that form'd the Blockade, and that Count Seckendorf's Army was but two Days March from the Frontier of Bosnia.

The Letters from Vienna add, that the Emperor has declared to the States of his Hereditary Dominions, that tho' he had demanded 25,000 Recruits of them, and 8000 Horses to remount his Cavalry, to enable him to continue the War against the Turks next Year; yet it would be more convenient for him to receive that Supply in Money, to be employ'd in lifting Men in the Empire to reinforce his Army. Accordingly the States of Austria have furnished the Imperial Chest with a considerable Sum to buy 10,000 Horses; and there's a Talk of laying a Poll Tax this Year throughout the Hereditary Countries, if a Peace be not speedily concluded.

They write from Transylvania, that the Turks are for most Part encamp'd in several Places between the Niefter, the Pruth, and the Danube, in such Manner as to be able to unite either against the Germans or Russians. And from Vienna, that the Prince of Saxe-Hilburghausen is returned to Gradisca in Slavonia, the Orders he had to advance towards Servia being revoked.

Letters from Dresden say, they have certain Advice that Count Munich, whose Army continues incamp'd about the River Bog, is preparing to send his Troops into Quarters of Refreshment; and that the Imperial Troops will make no farther Attempt in Hungary during this Campaign, in hopes that a Peace will be concluded with the Turks this Winter.

Letters from Madrid say, that the King of Spain has impos'd on the Clergy of his Dominions an annual Tax of 150,000 Livres, to continue so long as the War with the Moors on the Coast of Africa shall last. We are likewise confirmed by the same Letters in the Report which we formerly mentioned in this Journal, of great Quantities of Silver having been discovered in a Field near Sonora, with these farther Particulars, That this rich Field is situate between two Hills, 200 Leagues North-West of Mexico, in a Colony called *Corodegracht*, and abounds with Silver mixed with Gold of a good Alloy: Amongst other Ingots and Wedges of this Metal, one has been found that weighs 180 lb. which will be sent into Spain as it was found. It is added, that this Fact, as extraordinary as it may appear, is attested by all the Letters from Mexico.

They write from Hanover, that M. Munichshausen, a Minister of State, M. Tappe, Director of the Consistory, and M. Mentzer, the Counsellor of the Consistory, and Chief Pastor of the Church in the Castle, set out the 5th Instant for Gottingen, where they were to make their Publick Entry that Evening, and next Day to assist at the solemn Ceremony of the Inauguration of that University. The Two first were vested with the Character of Envoys from his Britannick Majesty, as Elector of Hanover, and the Third was to preach the Inauguration Sermon, at the Church of the said University.

Letters from Hamburg and Copenhagen say, that the Masters of the Ships returned home from Greenland, have reported to their Owners, That though according to the ancient Laws the Whale-Fishery belongs, in certain Places, to the Crown of Denmark solely; yet certain Dutch Ships have undertaken to disturb the said Fishery there, in such a Manner as if it belonged to them to prescribe whatsoever Laws they pleased about the Freedom of Commerce, in all the Seas they came to. And they add, that the King has resolved to refer this Attempt to the mature Consideration of some other Powers, whether it be not convenient to fix Limits to the said Commerce.

They write from Leghorn, That the Duke of Lorain has sent Word to the General de Wachtendonk, that he will be at Florence in November next: And that the Corsican Malecontents give the Genoese a great deal of Vexation; and that there's Advice by an English Ship from Tunis, that the old Bey has made himself Master of the whole Country, and that his eldest Son, with a numerous Army of the Mountaineers, has block'd up the new Bey in the City of Tunis.

Letters of the 27th ult. O. S. from Florence say, that some English Gentlemen meeting at an

Ordinary there One Volume, with a Table parted, and fough complete Index to the whole, Capt. Ponsonby.

The Earl of Mido of Dorset, and the TANNICUS, Reins to the Duke of Rutland, who were of the Company, left it a little before the Quarrel broke out.

We are assured that the King of France granted the Republick of Genoa 26 Battalions to assist them in subduing the Rebels of Corsica that the first Embarkation is to be on the 1st of November, O. S. and that in Pursuance thereof the Officers of the said Regiments have Orders to repair to their Posts by the 25th next Month.

Extract of a Letter from Versailles, dated the 1st of this Month, from M. Amelet, Minister of the Secretary of State, to M. de la Closerie, its Resident at Geneva.

S I R,

I received your Letters of the 24th, 25th, and 30th past, whereby you inform me of the Insurrection of the Burghers of Geneva against the Magistrates: And his Majesty highly approves of your Behaviour upon this Occasion. 'Tis to be hoped, that the Confidence which both the Parties have reposed in you, will put it in your Power to bring about an entire Pacification. Be sure to be both the Magistrates and Burghers know, how much concerned the King is to hear of the Domestic Troubles in their Government; and how desirous he is, to see the Tranquillity of a Republick restored, which has been so long his Ally. It seems, by your last Letter, that the same Ferment is still subsisting; and that the Aim of the Burghers is to establish a Government merely Democratical; which certainly would not be for the Advantage of the Republick, which has subsisted 200 Years under the Authority of Magistrates: But the Alterations which are contriving would be such a Subversion, as might be attended with the Ruin of the Magistracy. It were necessary in the first Place, to lay the Storm, by making the Citizens entirely secure, to recall all those who are removed out of the City, and particularly all the Members of the Little and Grand Council; and to prohibit, under the severest Penalties, all Acts of Violence, Oppression, and Injury, either betwixt Private Persons, or between the Parties.

L O N D O N.

On Thursday about Two o'clock in the Afternoon, the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen, went from Guildhall to Carleton House in Pall-mall in their Formalities, to congratulate their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, on the Birth of the Princess Augusta, and were very graciously received, having the Honour to kiss their Royal Highness's Hands.

An Address from the City of Dublin was the same Day presented to his Royal Highness, by the Lord Baltimore.

The King's Road in Hyde-Park is already gravelled and finish'd, and the Lamp-Poles are fixed up; and it will soon be opened, and the old Road level'd with the Park.

The Court of Directors of the East-India Company have stationed the remaining to Ships and Masters as follow: The Prince of Wales, Captain Pelly; the London, Captain Boscawen; the Prince of Orange, Captain Hudson; the Princess Royal, Captain Boscawen; for China, The Beaufort, Captain Bullock; for Madagascar, Captain Boscawen; and Bay of Bengal, The Wager, Captain Raymond; the Nile, Captain Hutchins; for the Coast and Bay: The Argyle, Capt. Stoddart for Bombay, Coast of Bay: The Duke of Cumberland, Capt. Boscawen for Bengal and Bombay: And the Scarborough, Capt. Westcott, for Bengal and Bencoolen.

Greenwich Market, conformable to a lately made to the Governors of that Hospital has been opened, with such Success, that it is rather a Fair than a Market at present: And is not in the least doubted but it will turn